

Astronaut Quarantine Facility

Center Operations Team, Johnson Space Center

NASA's new 12,000-square-foot Astronaut Quarantine Facility (AQF) at Johnson Space Center (JSC) opened in May 2005 as an isolation facility to accommodate Space Shuttle flight crews before and after space missions.

This state-of-the-art facility was designed and constructed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification by the United States Green Building Council. In other words, the building uses recycled and environmentally friendly construction and landscaping materials.

The AQF consists of 12 bedrooms with private baths, a large conference room, laundry facilities, a kitchen and dining facility, computer workstations, a workout room to maintain crew health, a medical exam room for pre- and postflight evaluations, and a lounge area for meetings with medically approved visitors.

Flight crews typically spend seven days split between JSC and Kennedy Space Center in isolation before flight, and the Russian crews spend approximately five days of postflight isolation at JSC.

Building 259 was the original quarantine facility at JSC. This facility was built in 1967, and was modified to serve as the astronaut selection and isolation quarters in the early 1980s for the Space Shuttle Program. The new AQF provides adequate space to meet the functional requirements of the isolation of the astronaut crew and its supporting subgroups. It is being built to support a larger number of astronauts flying an increased number of missions. NASA currently maintains 101 active astronauts (commanders, pilots, and mission specialists) in support of NASA human spaceflight programs and the development of new spaceflight initiatives.



The new AQF at Johnson Space Center is a state-of-the-art facility designed to meet the requirements of crew isolation.